

The Big Stone Gap Post.

VOL. XX,

BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1912.

No. 12

Terrible Affair.

"If You Sentence Me I Will Kill You," Said Floyd Allen to Judge Massie

Pulaski, Va., March 14.—This whole community is literally stunned by the awful tragedy at Hillsville this morning in which a party of the Allens and their sympathizers shot and killed Judge Thornton, L. Massie and W. M. Foster, the Commonwealth's attorney, and Sheriff Webb, and shot Dexter Good, the clerk, through the neck, and wounded several other persons.

One of the Allens was mortally wounded.

A special train was made up and left here at noon to bring home the body of the dead judge. A large delegation of prominent citizens went on the train.

There was also a rumor that Governor Mann was considering the question of sending troops to Carroll county.

The Allen's Reputation.

These Allens have long been known as desperadoes in Carroll county, though, like the feudists of Kentucky where not concerned themselves, they were quiet, kind, neighborly, though desperately dangerous if aroused in any way.

It is said that for years some of them have been selling liquor illicitly, defying both the State and the United States officers.

This present trouble seems to have grown out of the arrest, some months ago, of some members of the Allen faction. While the officers were taking them to jail, Floyd Allen and one of his nephews, or cousins, forcibly resisted the prisoners from the officers.

For this, indictments were made. Two weeks of courtage the younger Allen was tried and given a jail sentence and fine. It was thought then that there would be trouble and that Floyd Allen and his party would attack the sheriff when he went to take the convicted prisoner to jail, there being rumors that Floyd Allen had sworn he would never let the prisoner go to jail. And it is said that the sheriff then decided nothing less than to go out by the Allens when he went to jail with the prisoner.

Floyd Allen's Trial.

However, Floyd Allen, on that occasion, restrained his wrath and allowed this younger member of his clan to go quietly to jail.

Then it came to a question of trying Floyd Allen himself. This was another proposition. The case was continued at the next term of court on account of a witness who had been arrested out of the State by the Allens.

The case then came up again at the present term of court.

There had been numerous threats made by the Allens against Judge Massie and the other court officials. The Judge had been advised to go armed, but he emphatically stated that he would not so demean his office as judge as to wear a pistol while sitting on the bench, and that he was going to bring the Allens to justice, if it was in the power of the law to do so.

Judge Massie's Courage.

Judge Massie was a man of superb courage—absolutely without fear of any person or

thing, and no doubt it was his fearlessness in backing up the prosecution that finally brought Floyd Allen to conviction.

The case against Floyd Allen had been heard yesterday. Early this morning the jury brought in a verdict against him, sentencing him to one year in the penitentiary. Thereupon Allen said to Judge Massie:

"If you sentence me on that verdict, I will kill you." Judge Massie at once proceeded to sentence him and Floyd Allen shot Judge Massie. The sheriff then shot Floyd Allen and thereupon the fusillade became general.

After the shooting, it is said Allen crawled back to the hills, shooting up the town and terrorizing the inhabitants.

Publicity For Wise County.

The Savannah (Ga.) News recently printed an editorial on the articles of Wightman B. Roberts covering the subject of coal movement from Southwest Virginia to South Atlantic tidewater ports, saying that the matter of getting Georgia and Carolina ports in readiness to handle this coal by the time the Panama Canal is opened is of vital importance to Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington. These articles by Mr. Roberts appeared in the *Macon (Ga.) Telegraph*, and other newspapers of large circulation in the South. The *News* urges the business men of Savannah and other ports to carry out the suggestions of the writer of the articles, and make ready for the coal tonnage which should go to them from this field. But whether it does or not, depends materially on the efficiency of the railroads which must transport it, and to make sure of this, our own campaign should see that the campaign begun by Mr. Roberts is continued. The press is the most powerful agency in the world, and everywhere great business interests are making use of it to the fullest possible extent. So far as markets are concerned, coal operators in Wise county are completely cut off by freight differentials from all territory, except that which lies between us and the South Atlantic coast. It is of supreme importance, to the industry that a way be found to get some of the streamer trade which will be created by the opening of the Canal, and the time to begin work for it is RIGHT NOW.

Miss Glessie Gilly's interpretation of the character of Miss Hazy at the school building recently was certainly one of the funniest performances ever given seriously in Big Stone Gap. More than one of the audience went home humming snatches of "How Firm a Foundation," but we are sure that not one of them rendered that old song with the high, thin, and exceedingly high, thin key that "Miss Hazy" sang it in as she went about her highly original and diverting mode of keeping house, and no confirmed "snuff-dipper" but paid tribute to the perfect imitation. Miss Gilly gave of the way an old hand at the game will empty half a box of the weed into her mouth at a time in the intervals of exchanging gossip with a neighbor like the incomparable Mrs. Wigg, who always made it a practice to put her troubles in the bottom of her heart and sit on the lid and smile.

News has been received here from Henderson Reaser, a son of P. M. Reaser, who left here about six weeks ago, that he has joined the standing army and is now located at Columbus, Ohio.

Civic League Column

EDITED BY PRESS COMMITTEE.

Meetings Second Friday of Each Month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

In presenting a report of the work of the League for 1911, I shall state as briefly as possible both what we have planned, and what has been actually accomplished.

The League has fifty members enrolled for the year and, while all have not actively engaged in the work, we are glad to be assured of their interest and co-operation.

The literature of the national Civic Association for 1911 being devoted to abatement of Smoke Nuisance, and our manufactures not being sufficient in number to greatly inconvenience us, it was decided to discontinue our membership as the fee for the year was \$5.00.

Early in March, an avenue of 100 Norway maples was planted by the League, on East Fifth St. in Plot No. 1, and I am glad to report that all are growing nicely, with the exception of three, which we expect to replace.

The Council boxed the trees for us, and we hope they will continue to cooperate with us in this branch of our work.

Cleaning up day was observed, April 10th and, while the weather was for inclement, the work to be completed, it was continued next day, and most of the accumulation of winter debris was removed.

The May Fete was a great success financially and was so much enjoyed, both by children and grown-ups that we have been urged to have our annual.

It was decided to discontinue the Lyes and Cures, as there were two in two the previous winter.

A non-resident donated 2500 to be expended in beautifying the lawn spots on the Gap Road. Purple rhododendrons, lilacs, suckle and flower seeds of many kinds were planted by the ladies and we are hoping for results. This work will be continued.

Volunteer Day was not observed on the usual date as growth of paw paws, weeds, etc., overran our lot and not adequately sufficient to require grubbing. However, in June 25th "Volunteers" came out and, by their action and assistance of a committee from the League, transformed the appearance of the "down town district."

The Cemetery work has been pushed as we had planned. The League has voted the amount of money necessary to put stone posts and double iron gates at entrances to, drive ways, also two poles for gates and this work will be done at once. These gates, we hope, will be an inspiration to the general public to assist us in accomplishing our aim of putting a good substantial and, at the same time, slightly fence around the cemetery. Mr. W. W. Taylor very kindly donated 24 maps to the League; these with some shrubs, were used to border the driveway. We are still hoping that the Council will put the water in Cemetery, as we can then accomplish much more.

By the frequent cutting of weeds and grubbing paw-paws, much of the vacant property of the town has been rendered almost park like in appearance, thereby attracting the admiration of the passers-by. Whether the League was in any way responsible for this or not, something almost phenomenal happened here in the early Spring; an enterprising real estate man sold forty lots in one month; the general appearance of the town must have had something to do with it.

Sanitary drinking fountains were installed in the school by the League; they have proved quite satisfactory.

The flower-baby show in August grows each year in interest and the specimens in both classes increase annually, both in number and beauty.

The League furnished the supper for the Fourth of July German, from which we realized a neat little sum.

The Health Committee was active in its fight against the

fly, and one of its chief allies was the fly trap bought by this committee, and sold to a number of citizens, the only complaint of them having been that they do not hold enough flies. We recommend them for the coming season. This committee has also urged fumigation where there have been cases of tuberculosis and landlords now tell us that if the tenant can't afford fumigation he must have it done.

Several requests have recently been preferred of the Board of Health which, if granted, will benefit the town collectively and individually.

The League gave \$35.00 worth of prizes to householders for well kept and ornamental grounds. This work grows yearly in breadth and interest.

The League heartily endorses the ordinance for removal of manure every five days, which council passed last summer. We are glad to note that the spirit of civic betterment is contagious. Two neighboring towns Norton and Middleboro, have applied to us for constitution and plans of work and both organizations have been very successful. Bluefield, also, has formed a League this week, of which one of our former members, is treasurer.

The Junior League produced the Baby Opera and realized a neat little sum. This league takes great pride in the school grounds. They have recently formed a "Money Band" for protection of dumb animals.

In addition to the work already being done, we hope to make the Mineral Springs more accessible and attractive, by making some necessary improvements at both depots, plant more shade trees on the thoroughfares, therefore neglected, to improve park reservations, to try to awaken civic pride in all of our citizens, to place a few more eye-eyes and to have a more efficient service for removal of garbage.

Before closing this report, I wish to thank in the name of the League, Mr. Mayor and Council and every individual who has in any way, manner or co-operation with us in our effort for a healthier, cleaner and more beautiful town.

While the League has not accomplished as much in some lines as we had planned, only a few of our members, however, we are not discouraged and our slogan for 1912 will be "forward in every line of civic betterment."

Mr. Mears Honors Sullins Team.

A delightful affair of last evening was the dinner given in honor of the Sullins College basketball team by Mr. James Mears, business manager of the college.

The table was decorated in the college colors—red and yellow. The centerpiece was of smilax, surrounded by a wreath of red carnations, and in the center of this a tall ornate glass vase held yellow carnations. On either end of the table were baskets filled with wreaths of smilax. Clever toasts were offered throughout the dinner which was served in seven courses. Covers were laid for twenty-five.

The members of the team who attended the dinner were Messrs. Joe Kite, Sam McNeill, Hugh Hill, English Baumgardner, Herbert King, R. A. Brooks, Bruce Rushing and Hickam. The sponsors present were Messrs. Rena Barker, Gladys Wolfe, Mamie Cooper, Minnie Bryan and Ula Bruce. The additional guests were Dr. and Mrs. Neighbors, Miss Jane Drake, Mrs. Vesta Kirkpatrick, Prof. Carl Bodell, Prof. and Mrs. Louise Albert, Mrs. Clarence King and Mrs. R. A. Brooks.—Bristol Herald Courier.

NOTICE.

The ladies of the Home Mission Society of the M. E. Church, South, are now ready to take orders for plain and fancy sewing. Any one wanting work done will please let the President, Mrs. Skeen, know and it will be attended to with neatness and dispatch.

Good Roads In Virginia.

According to the annual report of Highway Commissioner Wilson, just sent to Governor Mann, nineteen counties in Virginia have appropriated \$3,551,000 for the construction of good roads, says the Bristol Herald Courier. A small map of the state accompanies the report, indicating the localities where notable improvement is in progress. It goes without saying that this map shows that the scene of activity in road building is confined very largely to southwest Virginia, the most progressive section of the state. We do not recall the number of southwest Virginia counties that have voted funds for good roads, but it is safe to say that three-fourths of the amount appropriated for that purpose, as reported by Commissioner Wilson, was appropriated by Southwest Virginia. A number of counties in this section have not yet realized the importance of building modern highways, and these are expected to fall in line in due time.

In a letter to Governor Mann, which precedes the report, Commissioner Wilson says:

"The demand for convict labor has been in excess of ability of the superintendent of the penitentiary to furnish—first, on account of the limited appropriations made for the maintenance of men available. With a small number of men and the means for their support available employment can readily be found for several times the number of convicts now engaged in road work. Further, it is pointed out as a point made in preceding reports, that the convict labor can be handled more economically on heavy work where the men are concentrated than in lighter work where it is necessary to scatter them beyond the reach of a reasonable number of guards in order to do the work economically."

In addition to the work actually upon the road, it seems to me strongly advisable that one of more permanent quarters should be established for producing suitable road material in those counties which have not material at all or none suitable for secondary road construction. This recommendation has been made in former reports, and the importance of it has been further demonstrated in the experience of the last year by the high cost of roads and counties which have no local stone and by the rapid wear of some roads built of local stone, which was of an inferior quality. The selection of such quarries, if authorized, should be very carefully made both with reference to the quality of the material and transportation facilities.

Miss Summers a Visitor.

Miss Mary Summers, of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, came to Bristol Saturday to visit her father, Dr. George Summers, at Sullins College. She leaves today for Washington, D. C., where she will be the guest of her sister, Mrs. Paul Delaney, until the last of the month, when she will return to Big Stone Gap, and on the twenty-eight of March will be united in marriage to Mr. George E. Penn, Jr., of Abingdon, Va. The wedding will take place at the Episcopal church and will be witnessed by the relatives and a few close friends of each. The ceremony will be performed by Dr. Samuels, assisted by Rev. John J. Lloyd, rector of the church.

Owing to the prominence of the contracting parties the wedding will be of unusual interest to many in both Virginia and Tennessee.—Bristol Herald Courier.

Dr. King's New Life Pills
The best in the world.

Gives Lasting Record

Vital Statistics Act Will Prevent Much Litigation over Wills.

Richmond, Va., March 15.—A lasting record of all future births and deaths in Virginia is guaranteed by the vital statistics law, which was enacted during the last days of the recent General Assembly. This measure is expected to be of the utmost value to the people of the State in preventing much of the litigation than has heretofore arisen over contested heirships; and it is expected likewise to prove of great practical worth to lawyers and to the cause of public health.

When the new law goes into effect, it provides that all deaths be reported to registrars who shall issue burial permits and that all births be reported to the same officers. The record for each county will be filed in the county, and records for the entire Commonwealth will be preserved in the archives of the State. These will be accessible to persons desiring information regarding the birth, death or last illness of any person. As the law also authorizes a record of the parents of any person born or dying, a complete record of citizens will thus be preserved. It is estimated by lawyers and genealogists that these records in the future will be among the most valuable of the State's archives and will be consulted more frequently than perhaps any other documents kept by the State.

It is pointed out that all disputes as to the parentage, date of birth or date of death of any person can be definitely decided by appeal to the vital records. The undertaker files his statement, the physician is to fill out other blanks and their statement, together with the information furnished by the person reporting the birth or death give all essential information regarding the life history of any person.

The new law which will be administered directly by the Health Commissioner acting as Registrar of Vital Statistics, will go into effect in June, after which date all births and deaths will be reported.

Supervisors Meeting At Wise

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, composed of E. J. Prescott, J. L. Addington, William Sparks, and Ira Mullins, at Wise last week estimates were allowed on county road work for the month of February, amounting to \$35,000. The Board adjusted a number of right of ways and discussed the advisability of building a house on the court house lot to be used as Supervisors' office and a ladies waiting room. This building will supply a long want as there has been no suitable place for the ladies to stay while attending court, as they are frequently summoned to court as witnesses.

The Wise county Board of Health, composed of Dr. J. B. Wolfe, of Coeburn, and Dr. Miles, of Wise, met with the Board and discussed some important matters, relative to small pox and the sanitary arrangement of the poorhouse and jail. Important and strong measures were passed upon relative to these matters. The Board will also have a number of cottages erected at the poor farm for the better accommodations of the inmates. The Board will also furnish a lot of trees for the court yard.